



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Dry Pea Production  
Austrian Winter Pea Production  
Lentil Production  
Sugar Beets Production  
Fall Potatoes Production  
2007 Crop Year Summary  
Ag Prices Received

## November 1 Crop Production

Montana dry edible pea production is up 67 percent from last year to 3.44 million cwt. Harvested area increased by 13 percent to 215,000 acres and yields increased by 520 pounds per acre to 1,600.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana is forecast to be 49,000 cwt, down from 110,000 cwt last year. Harvested area dropped 5,000 acres to 7,000. Most of Montana's Austrian winter peas were used for grazing or forage.

Montana's lentil production is forecast at 946,000 cwt, up 18 percent from last year. Harvested area decreased 36 percent from 2006 to 86,000 acres and yield increased by 500 pounds per acre to 1,100.

Sugar beet production for Montana is expected to be 1.7 million tons, down 11 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, at 24.8 tons per acre, is down 1.2 tons from the October 1 forecast and down 2.2 tons per acre from 2006. Harvested acreage is down 1,500 acres from last year to 47,000 acres.

Montana's fall potato production is forecast at 3.58 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year. Harvested acres are up 700 acres from last year to 11,200 acres. The yield is forecast to be 320 cwt per acre, down 4 percent from 2006.

In the United States, dry edible pea production is forecast at 15.6 million cwt, up 18 percent from the 2006 estimate. Area for harvest, at 809,300 acres, is 8 percent below a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 1,931

pounds per acre, up 438 pounds from last season.

U.S. production of Austrian winter peas is forecast at 150,000 cwt, down 42 percent from 2006. Area harvested is forecast at 14,000 acres, down 38 percent from last year. Average yield is expected to be 1,071 pounds per acre, down 80 pounds per acre from last season.

Lentils production in the U.S. is forecast at 3.49 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 296,000 acres, down 27 percent from the previous year. Average yield is expected to be 1,179 pounds per acre, up 382 pounds per acre from 2006.

U.S. sugar beet production is forecast at 31.6 million tons, 4 percent above last month but 7 percent below last year's production of 34.1 million tons. Growers expect to harvest 1.24 million acres, unchanged from October but down 5 percent from last year. The yield is forecast at 25.4 tons per acre, up 0.9 ton from last month but down 0.7 ton from the 2006 record high yield. Although yield is down from last year's record high, it will be the second highest, if realized. Harvested acreage is forecast to be the lowest since 2001.

U.S. production of fall potatoes for 2007 is forecast at 408 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 997,800 acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but 2 percent above last year. The average yield is forecast at 409 cwt per acre, up 3 cwt from last year's record high yield.

## Montana 2007 Crop Year Summary

By the end of October 2006, seeding for the 2007 winter wheat crop was 94 percent complete and 64 percent had emerged. Most areas of Montana received moderate to heavy precipitation the first and third weeks of October 2006, with light precipitation the rest of the month. During the month, the state experienced above average temperatures. At the end of the month, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent

very poor, 5 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. These ratings were a little lower than the 2006 crop.

Temperatures varied widely during November 2006 and the state received light to moderate precipitation. By the end of the month, 68 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated good to excellent, and the topsoil moisture condition was rated 3 percent very short, 16 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture condition was rated 11 percent very short, 36 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Montana experienced light precipitation during the month of December 2006, with most cities receiving below normal amounts of rain and snow. At month's end, wind, freeze, and drought had caused light damage to winter wheat, and the crop was rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Montana had above normal temperatures in January 2007, with moderate precipitation in the form of rain and snow. The topsoil moisture condition rating for adequate to surplus was 56 percent, with subsoil moisture condition rating for adequate to surplus at 37 percent. Snow cover protectiveness on winter wheat fields was 74 percent very poor to poor at month's end, but wind damage was 51 percent light to moderate, and freeze and drought damage to the crop was 47 percent light to moderate. The winter wheat crop condition was rated 10 percent excellent, 44 percent good, 41 percent fair, and 5 percent poor at the end of the month.

During February, temperatures varied widely and the state received moderate to heavy precipitation. At month's end, snow cover protectiveness on winter wheat fields was rated 50 percent fair, and the wind, freeze, and drought damage was rated mostly none to light. The winter wheat crop was reported in mostly fair to good condition. (continued on page two)

# November 1, 2007 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2006	2007 1/	2006	2007 1/	2006	2007 1/	2006	2007 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	1,950.0	2,240.0	1,920.0	2,190.0	43.0	38.0	82,560	83,220
Durum Wheat	Bu	400.0	480.0	395.0	475.0	17.0	24.0	6,715	11,400
Spring Wheat	Bu	2,950.0	2,450.0	2,900.0	2,400.0	22.0	23.0	63,800	55,200
All Wheat	Bu	5,300.0	5,170.0	5,215.0	5,065.0	29.4	29.6	153,075	149,820
Barley	Bu	770.0	900.0	620.0	720.0	50.0	44.0	31,000	31,680
Oats	Bu	70.0	75.0	24.0	35.0	46.0	52.0	1,104	1,820
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	65.0	82.0	18.0	22.0	146.0	3/	2,628	3/
Sugar Beets	Tons	53.6	47.5	48.5	47.0	27.0	24.8	1,310	1,166
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	10.6	11.3	10.5	11.2	335.0	320.0	3,518	3,584
Dry Beans	Cwt	19.5	18.0	18.6	17.0	16.4	18.0	305	306
Dry Peas	Cwt	210.0	230.0	191.0	215.0	10.8	16.0	2,063	3,440
Lentils	Cwt	142.0	87.0	134.0	86.0	6.0	11.0	804	946
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	32.0	20.0	12.0	7.0	9.2	7.0	110	49
Canola	Lbs	10.0	8.0	9.8	7.7	1,120.0	1,600.0	10,976	12,320
Flaxseed	Bu	35.0	30.0	33.0	29.0	9.0	3/	297	3/
Safflower	Lbs	39.0	53.0	37.0	50.0	750.0	3/	27,750	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,550.0	1,650.0	2.10	2.10	3,255	3,465
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	710.0	900.0	1.50	1.50	1,065	1,350
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,260.0	2,550.0	1.91	1.89	4,320	4,815
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	40,575.0	44,987.0	31,117.0	35,952.0	41.7	42.2	1,298,081	1,515,989
Durum Wheat	Bu	1,870.0	2,149.0	1,815.0	2,112.0	29.5	33.9	53,475	71,686
Spring Wheat	Bu	14,899.0	13,297.0	13,878.0	12,947.0	33.2	37.0	460,480	479,047
All Wheat	Bu	57,344.0	60,433.0	46,810.0	51,011.0	38.7	40.5	1,812,036	2,066,722
Barley	Bu	3,452.0	4,020.0	2,951.0	3,508.0	61.0	60.4	180,165	211,825
Oats	Bu	4,168.0	3,760.0	1,566.0	1,505.0	59.8	60.9	93,638	91,599
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	78,327.0	93,616.0	70,648.0	86,071.0	149.1	154.7	10,534,868	13,318,102
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,366.2	1,263.0	1,303.6	1,241.4	26.1	25.4	34,064	31,560
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	993.7	1,010.8	983.0	997.8	406.0	409.0	398,921	408,325
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,629.8	1,527.3	1,537.6	1,462.5	15.8	17.3	24,247	25,264
Dry Peas	Cwt	925.5	842.5	884.1	809.3	14.9	19.3	13,203	15,625
Lentils	Cwt	429.0	303.0	407.0	296.0	8.0	11.8	3,244	3,490
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	46.0	29.0	22.5	14.0	11.5	10.7	259	150
Canola	Lbs	1,044.0	1,183.0	1,021.0	1,144.0	1,366.0	1,312.0	1,394,332	1,501,341
Flaxseed	Bu	813.0	465.0	767.0	453.0	14.4	3/	11,019	3/
Safflower	Lbs	189.0	170.0	179.0	162.5	1,069.0	3/	191,405	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,384.0	21,451.0	3.35	3.37	71,666	72,347
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,423.0	40,338.0	1.78	1.87	70,000	75,617
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,807.0	61,789.0	2.33	2.39	141,666	147,964

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Available January 11, 2008. -- Not published.

## Montana 2007 Crop Year Summary (continued from page one)

In March, Montana received below normal amounts of precipitation. Snow cover protectiveness on winter wheat fields dropped to 85 percent very poor. Thirty-one percent of the winter wheat crop was still dormant at the end of the month, compared to 84 percent in 2006. The topsoil moisture condition was rated slightly better than the previous year at 11 percent very short, 24 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture condition was rated 10 percent very short, 40 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, a little lower than the previous

month, but slightly better than the previous year.

During the first three weeks of April, the state received moderate to above normal amounts of precipitation. However, little moisture was received during the last week. Wet conditions slowed down spring planting in most areas. The weather was more suitable for field work the last week, and producers made some progress seeding grains. By the end of the month, barley was 48 percent seeded, with 10 percent of the crop emerged. Other spring wheat was 41 percent seeded, with 4 percent emerged. Durum wheat was 27 percent planted. Oats were 40 percent seeded with 5 percent

emerged. The corn crop was 9 percent planted, and sugar beets were 44 percent planted.

Rainfall in May varied from above normal to below normal to scattered and back to above normal during the month. Consequently, topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to surplus by the end of the month. Winter wheat condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 30 percent excellent at month's end. Small grains planting was nearing completion. (continued on back page)

## September Agricultural Prices Received

September full month crop prices were higher when compared to August 2007. New record highs were set in September for winter wheat, spring wheat, malt barley, and feed barley. Montana's winter wheat price was \$6.22 per bushel, up \$0.70 from August, spring wheat moved up \$0.48 to \$6.09 per bushel, and durum wheat prices gained \$0.41 to reach \$7.05 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased \$0.54 from the previous month to \$3.76 per bushel, and malt barley prices were up \$0.08 to \$3.73 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay dropped \$4.00 from September to \$72.00 per ton, but all other hay was unchanged at \$71.00 per ton. The mid October grain prices were all higher with winter wheat at \$7.53 per bushel, spring wheat was \$8.21 per bushel, durum wheat was \$14.00 per bushel, feed barley was \$5.06 per bushel, and malt barley was \$4.95 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mostly higher when compared to August 2007. Steers and heifers increased \$5.00 to \$107.00 per

cwt, but cows decreased \$4.90 to \$48.70 per cwt. The price for beef cattle rose \$2.40 to \$97.10 per cwt, and calves jumped \$8.00 to \$130.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased \$0.70 to \$20.70 per cwt and lambs rose \$1.00 to \$102.00 per cwt. The full month September milk price increased \$0.50 per cwt from August to \$22.40. Steers and heifers for mid-October were \$113.00 per cwt, cows were \$46.50 per cwt, beef cattle were \$99.00 per cwt, calves were \$126.00 per cwt, and milk was \$22.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was \$6.89 per bushel, up \$2.86; spring wheat was \$6.30 per bushel, up \$0.77; durum wheat was \$8.95 per bushel, up \$2.07; oats were \$2.47 per bushel, up \$0.22; the all barley price was \$4.04 per bushel, up \$0.50; steers and heifers were \$98.10 per cwt, up \$2.30; calves were \$127.00 per cwt, down \$2.00; sheep were \$26.20 per cwt, down \$1.60; lambs were \$99.10 per cwt, up \$0.50; all hogs were \$46.60 per cwt, down \$5.00; and milk was \$21.70 per cwt, up \$0.10.

The U.S. mid-October winter wheat price was \$7.98 per bushel, spring wheat was \$7.62 per bushel, durum wheat was

\$13.50 per bushel, all wheat was \$8.02 per bushel, oats were \$2.35 per bushel, malt barley was \$4.98 per bushel, feed barley was \$5.38 per bushel, all barley was \$5.18 per bushel, alfalfa hay was \$137.00 per ton, and other hay was \$122.00 per ton. Steer and heifers were \$96.70 per cwt, cows were \$46.80 per cwt, calves were \$125.00 per cwt, all milk was \$21.20 per cwt, all hogs were \$42.60 per cwt, and all eggs were \$0.936 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 142 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.7 percent) from September. The Crop Index is up 7 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 7 points (5.0 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, wheat, soybeans, and tomatoes and lower prices were received for broilers, hogs, cattle, and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and grain sorghum offset decreased marketings of milk, wheat, grapes, and broilers.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	September 2006	October 2006	September 2007	October 2007
Prices Received	119	115	141	142
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	149	148	159	159
Ratio 2/	80	78	89	89

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Sep 2006	Aug 2007	Sep 2007	Sep 2007	Aug 2007	Sep 2006	15-Oct-07	15-Oct-07
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	4.25	5.52	6.22	6.89	0.70	1.97	7.53	7.98
Durum Wheat	Bu	4.24	6.64	7.05	8.95	0.41	2.81	14.00	13.50
Spring Wheat	Bu	4.08	5.61	6.09	6.30	0.48	2.01	8.21	7.62
All Wheat	Bu	4.17	5.59	6.23	6.75	0.64	2.06	8.35	8.02
All Barley	Bu	2.78	3.59	3.74	4.04	0.15	0.00	4.99	5.18
Feed Barley	Bu	1.95	3.22	3.76	4.44	0.54	1.81	5.06	5.38
Malt Barley	Bu	2.92	3.65	3.73	3.75	0.08	0.81	4.95	4.98
Oats	Bu	1.89	2.18	2.62	2.47	0.44	0.73	na	2.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	80.00	76.00	135.00	-4.00	-2.00	72.00	137.00
All Other Hay	Ton	87.00	95.00	71.00	124.00	-24.00	-16.00	71.00	122.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	79.00	83.00	75.00	132.00	-8.00	-4.00	72.00	133.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	112.00	102.00	107.00	98.10	5.00	-5.00	113.00	96.70
Cows	Cwt	49.10	53.60	48.70	49.10	-4.90	-0.40	46.50	46.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	95.60	94.70	97.10	92.90	2.40	1.50	99.00	90.80
Calves	Cwt	143.00	122.00	130.00	127.00	8.00	-13.00	126.00	125.00
Sheep	Cwt	22.20	20.00	20.70	26.20	0.70	-1.50	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	104.00	101.00	102.00	99.10	1.00	-2.00	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	12.80	21.90	22.40	21.70	0.50	9.60	22.90	21.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

## Montana 2007 Crop Year Summary

(continued from page two)

During June, most areas of Montana received moderate to heavy precipitation until mid-month when the weather turned hot and dry. At month's end, spring grains crop progress and hay harvest were on pace with 2006, but ahead of the five-year average. Winter wheat was 91 percent headed, and condition was rated mostly good to excellent.

Montana was hot and dry during July with many stations setting new records for high temperatures. The heat and wind stressed spring planted crops. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions deteriorated from June. At month's end, winter wheat harvest was 59 percent completed, behind 2006, but well ahead of the five-year average. The second cutting of alfalfa and other hay was underway.

Hot weather continued until the last week of August when temperatures dropped into the 80s. Only a few stations reported temperatures in the 90s. Montana received below normal precipitation during the month. The topsoil and subsoil moisture condition ratings deteriorated. By the third week, winter wheat harvest was 99 percent complete. By month's end spring grains harvest was well ahead of the five-year average, but on pace with or behind the previous year. Seeding for the 2008 winter wheat crop had not yet begun.

Temperatures were well above normal the first part of September with limited precipitation received. During the last half of the month, above normal precipitation prevailed and temperatures dropped into the 40s and 50s. By mid-month, spring grains harvest was virtually complete. By the end of September, winter wheat seeding was 69 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year, but nearly the same as the five-year average.

The 2007 winter wheat production was 83.2 million bushels, 1 percent above the 2006 production of 82.6 million bushels. Producers seeded 2.24 million acres, 15 percent above the 2006 acreage. Producers harvested 2.19 million acres, up from last year's acreage of 1.92 million acres. The 2007 average yield, at 38.0 bushels per acre, is 5 bushels below last year.

Other spring wheat production was 55.2 million bushels, down 13 percent from 2006 because fewer acres were planted and harvested. The final seeded acreage was 2.45 million acres, down 500,000 acres from last year's acreage of 2.95 million. Producers harvested 2.40 million acres, down 500,000 acres from the previous year's acreage of 2.90 million. Yields averaged 23.0 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the previous year.

Durum wheat growers seeded 480,000 acres, up 80,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 475,000 acres, up 20 percent from 2006. The average

yield was 24.0 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year. Total production for 2007 was estimated at 11.4 million bushels, up 70 percent from last year's 6.7 million bushels.

In 2007, producers seeded 900,000 acres of barley, 130,000 acres more than 2006. Producers harvested 720,000 acres, 100,000 more than last year. The final yield for 2007 was 44.0 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels from last year. Production was estimated at 31.7 million bushels, 2 percent above last year.

Oat production was estimated at 1.8 million bushels, up 65 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 75,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from 2006. Harvested acreage was set at 35,000 acres, up 11,000 acres from last year. Average yield, at 52.0 bushels per acre, was 6 bushels above 2006.

Alfalfa hay production is estimated to be 3.47 million tons, up 6 percent from the previous year. Alfalfa hay yield is 2.10 tons per acre. Harvested area, at 1.65 million acres, is up 100,000 acres from 2006. Other hay yield is 1.50 tons per acre, unchanged from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.35 million tons, up 27 percent from 2006 and harvested area, at 0.9 million acres, is up 190,000 acres from 2006. All hay production is estimated to be 4.82 million tons, up 11 percent from last year. All hay yield is estimated to be 1.89 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton per acre from last year.

### COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

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Peggy Stringer, Director  
John Hilton, Deputy Director  
Wendy Bruski, Statistical Info Assistant  
10 W 15th Street, Helena, MT 59626  
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612  
[www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/) nass-mt@nass.usda.gov